

### **Maybelle Flanagan**

Maybelle, the daughter of John H. Flanagan and Nannie Bathsheba (Sheba) Smith was born February 3, 1893 in Farmville Township, Pitt County, NC and died July 17, 1964. She married Aaron Calhoun Turnage On September 3, 1912. She and Aaron had 3 daughters and a son – Evelyn Hope, Carrie Speight, Carmen Urcle, and “A.C.”, Jr.

Maybelle grew up in the farming community of Farmville, NC. She went through school in Farmville, graduating from high school there and then attending East Carolina Normal School. After marriage she lived near Lang’s Crossroads between Farmville and Greenville, NC with her family on a tobacco farm. The Turnage family was large and owned several parcels of land in the vicinity.

She was born on the “old plank road” (now route 264A) between Marlboro and Lang’s Crossroads. The home was owned by her father, along with the farm it was built on. It was called Cherry Hill according to one of her sisters, Thelma. The house was a large, ten room home which was a necessary thing since she had eleven brothers and sisters; a full house even at that size. Interestingly, the house was eventually abandoned and in later years, her son, A.C., moved it to his father’s farm on the Moye Turnage Road. It was restored and is now the home of his and Vivian’s daughter Sheila, Maybelle’s granddaughter.

It may very well be that growing up in a large family of close knit children and with an obvious dose of the Irish wit, she came by a sense of humor naturally. She continually teased her husband as well as the rest of the family. It would be easy to see him say to himself, “Now where did that come from?” many times. Humor and teasing is a strong characteristic in the Flanagan family.

Like her husband and many in her family, Maybelle was active in the Farmville Christian Church. She taught the Loyal Ladies Sunday school class for many years. She also was president of the Women’s Christian Fellowship. She was a kind and loving mother to her children and their spouses as well as to her husband and all her grandchildren. She enjoyed keeping a strong home and working in the yard.

During WW II and for several years thereafter she sold Raleigh products.